

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: West Entrance Station

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: Going-to-the-Sun Road (Glacier Route 1)

not for publication: n/a

vicinity: Going-to-the-Sun Road, near West Glacier; Glacier National Park (GLAC)

city/town: West Glacier

state: Montana code: MT

county: Flathead code: 29

zip code: 59938

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 38 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official/Title

12.5.95
Date

National Park Service

State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

[Signature]
Signature of commenting or other official

SEP 29 1995
Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register
 see continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register
 see continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
 see continuation sheet
- removed from the National Register
 see continuation sheet
- other (explain)

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper

Entered in the
National Register

Date of Action

[Signature]

1/19/96

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-Federal

Number of Resources within Property

Category of Property: Building

Contributing Noncontributing

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register: N/A1 building(s)

Name of related multiple property listing: Glacier National Park Multiple Property Listing

 sites structures objects1 Total**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions:

Current Function:

Government/Transportation/Recreation and Culture (entrance station)

Same

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Materials:

Rustic

foundation: concrete, stone veneer

walls: log; stone; vertical plank

roof: wood shakes

other:

Narrative Description

The West Entrance Station is situated in the center of the Going-to-the-Sun Road, approximately 200 yards north of the sign announcing official passage onto park lands, approximately 1 mile north of the town of West Glacier, Montana, and 1/4 mile west of Glacier National Park Headquarters. This proximity to headquarters, however, is not immediately discernable; the road is bordered by heavy stands of lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, and cedar. This apparent isolation enhances the station's commanding presence.

In 1936, NPS landscape architect Albert Good recommended that entrance stations be centered within the roadway: "an island dividing the in and out traffic will promote safety and restrain recklessness without a suggestion of inhospitality. By recalling the familiar tollbridge entrance, it serves to suggest to the entrant that a fee is being collected." The entry station, located approximately 1/2 mile north of West Glacier, conforms to this plan. Landscape features include oval planting areas -- demarcated with staggered one- to five-course mortared weather-faced stone walls - that surround the three checking rooms. The single-course bed at the north elevation and the staggered five-course bed at the south elevation conform to original specifications. The single-course beds surrounding the new checking booths

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

Applicable National Register Criteria: A; C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Areas of Significance: Government; Recreation and Culture; Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1941-1945

Significant Dates: 1941

Architect/Builder: National Park Service, Branch of Plans and Design

Narrative Statement of Significance

The West Entrance Station is significant for its association with rustic architecture, with National Park Service infrastructure development made in response to increased visitation, and with the construction efforts of the CCC. It is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C (NR areas of significance: Government, Recreation, Architecture) at the local level of significance. This property is a component of the Minor Developed Areas property type as defined in the Glacier National Park Multiple Property Listing.

Since the early years of Glacier National Park, park managers perceived a need for official entrance or checking stations on automobile roads leading into the park. The need is greatest at the West Glacier entrance, which has handled the largest share of vehicle traffic since the park's establishment. The earliest checking stations were makeshift affairs; the first permanent facility was built in the headquarters residential area in 1924. This was an employee residence (building #7) to which was added a covered passageway leading to a small roadside checking building.

By 1938 the new Middle Fork Bridge and entrance road were completed, bypassing the headquarters area and old entrance facility. A shack was moved to the new highway alignment to serve as a checking station until a permanent structure could be erected. The new checking station was completed in August, 1941 by CCC area members at a total cost of \$2,423.96. Building plans for the St. Mary checking station, constructed about the same time, were also utilized for the new West Entrance.

Increased traffic flow necessitated the 1963 construction of two additional checking cubicles in the "wings" of the original facility. These additions allowed two lanes of traffic to be processed simultaneously, and allowed for the handling of the increasing number of oversized recreational vehicles. The overall appearance of the station has changed little over the years, though, and it still serves the purpose for which it was originally designed.

West Entrance Station

Flathead County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

Albert H. Good, architectural consultant. *Park and Recreation Structures, Part I - Administration and Basic Service Facilities*, (USDI NPS) 1938.

Hufstetler, Mark, "Glacier Historic Structures Narrative Histories and Classified Structure Field Inventory Report," 1987. George C. Ruhle Library and Archives, West Glacier, MT.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other -- Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References:

Zone
A 12

Easting
279410

Northing
5376690

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries encompass the entrance station and associated planting areas and flagpoles.

Boundary Justification

This boundary incorporates the area of historical use. The associated roadway is a National Engineering Landmark (the Going-to-the-Sun Road).

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Ann Hubber/Historian

organization: Historical Research Associates, Inc.

date: 6/1995

street & number: P.O. Box 7086

telephone: (406) 721-1958

city or town: Missoula

state: MT

zip code: 59807-7086

Property Owner

name/title: National Park Service

street & number: Park Headquarters

telephone: (406) 888-5441

city or town: West Glacier

state: MT

zip code: 59938

United States Department of the Interior
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are modern. As during the historic period, a large flagpole is located within the large south-side central bed. "Low plantings" are specified within the original blueprints; the plantings however, are not discernable in the historic photograph and have not been identified. The beds are currently planted in grass (with the exception of the flagstone-lined sections located underneath the roof). The central flagstone planting areas and the flagpole contribute to the building's significance. The entrance station is a single-story wood-frame building largely faced with native, regular-coursed, weather-faced ashlar. The building rests on a concrete-pier/stone-face foundation. The log-frame gable roof extends 16 feet to either side to shelter vehicle bays located on each end of the building. Pairs of large (13" diam.) log posts support these roof extensions. In 1963, small wood-frame checking rooms -- incorporated under the original roof -- were constructed at either extreme of the building, approximately five-feet behind the south-elevation posts; these additions allow for two lines of traffic to proceed through both the exit and entrance lanes.

The central (original) checking room is faced with coursed native stone. The two additions are sided with board and batten. Wood shingles cover the roof. Roof features include a central stone-faced chimney and exposed purlin and rafter ends.

The main entry doors, located within the east and west (side) elevations of the central component, are composed of vertical wood members; the east-side door is glazed (three-lights). Fenestration within the central component consists of a large single-light window within south and north elevations and a pair of three-light casement windows, within both side elevations. The window pair within the west elevation replaced a Dutch door at an unknown time; 12" lapped vertical board siding now covers the exterior wall directly beneath the window. Window surrounds within this historic component are milled-lumber, paired with stone lintels.

Doors to the 1963 additions are paneled wood with a single-light. Both the north and south elevations contain one-light fixed-sash windows that mirror those within the central component. Side-elevation windows are three-light by three-light sliding-sash windows flanked to one side by three-light fixed-sash windows. This fenestration successfully matches that of the original component. Wood surfaces are stained dark brown. "West Entrance" signs are located above both one-light windows within the central component. The building is in good condition.

Only the interior of the central historic component was surveyed. Random width tongue-and-groove paneling covers all wall and ceiling surfaces. Door and window surrounds are constructed of varnished four-inch milled lumber. The casement windows, providing "access" between ranger and incoming and outgoing vehicles, are constructed with wide, curved, window sills. Fixed-furnishings include varnished-plywood wall-mounted cupboard units.

Modern interior finishes include two-inch baseboards, most likely dating to the installation of vinyl flooring over the original wood floors, are paired with quarter-round trim. The electrical system, including concealed wiring, bare-bulb fixtures, and modern switch plates and outlets, dates to the late 1980s rewiring of the building.

The 1963 additions adversely affect the building's integrity of materials, design, and workmanship. However, defining features of rustic architecture, including the stone work and log-frame roof, remain as does the unique "tollbooth" design. The historic setting in an island along an otherwise-undeveloped stretch of the park's primary entrance, is also intact.

Alterations to the interior of the historic central component have been limited to the installation of vinyl flooring (reversible) and of electricity. The interior contributes to the building's significance.

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Photographs

The following information applies to all photographs listed below:

- 1) Photographer: Nancy Niedernhofer
- 2) Date of
 Photograph: September 1993
- 3) Location of
 Negatives: National Park Service, RMR-RC, Denver

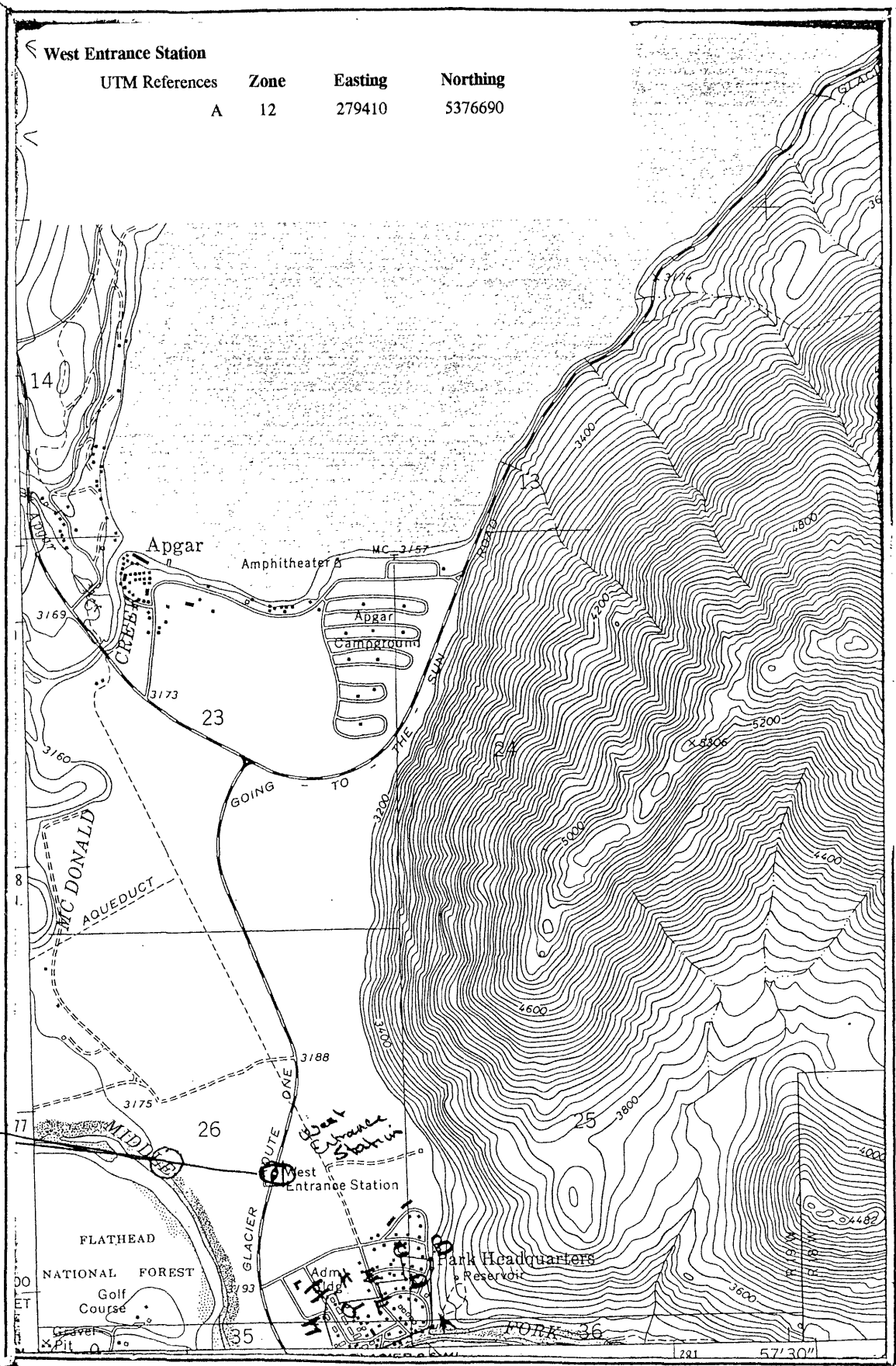
PHOTO NUMBER	DIRECTION OF VIEW
1	View to Northwest
2	View to North
3	View to Northwest
4	Interior - Central Component
5	Interior - Central Component
6	Interior - Central Component

Additional Documentation

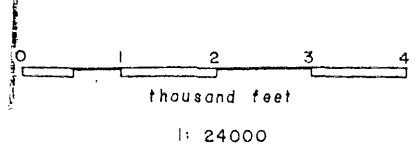
The following blueprint can be found at the NPS Denver Service Center, Technical Information Center, Denver, Colorado.

West Entrance Station

UTM References	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	12	279410	5376690

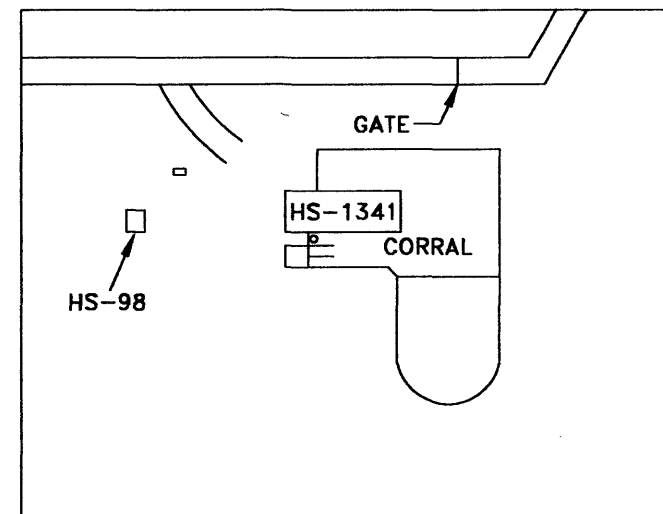
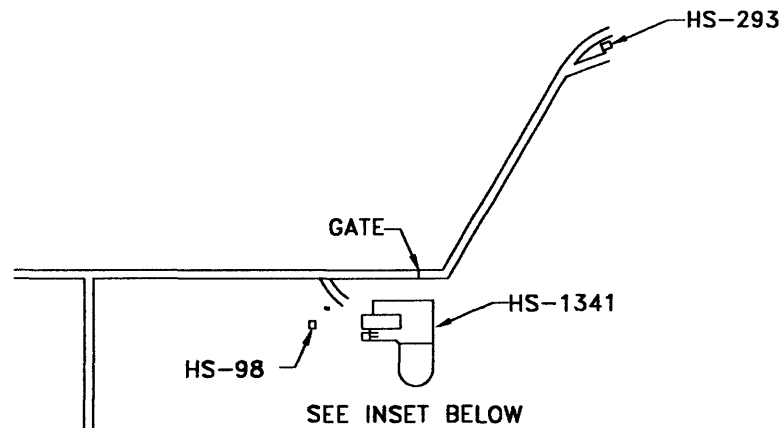
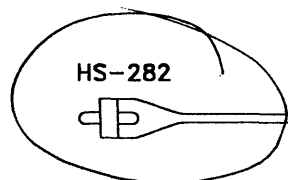
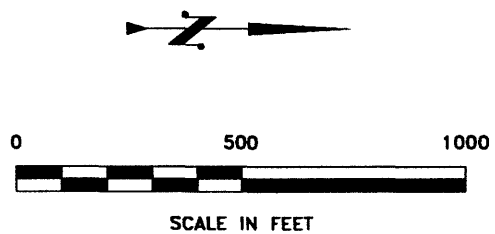


West
Entrance
Station



USGS 7.5' Quad Lake McDonald West
Sec. 1 T 1 R 1
County Flathead

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK
WEST ENTRANCE STATION #282



TO APGAR CAMPGROUND →